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Savor the Flavor of a Great Memorial Day Barbecue with a Well Maintained Grill

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan would like to remind everyone to grill safely this weekend as they commemorate Memorial Day. State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Outdoor cooking incidents, such as gas grill fires, burns from flare-ups and improper use of charcoal lighter fluid, increase as people take to their backyards to enjoy a barbecue." Almost three-quarters (74%) of all gas grill fires occur between May and September.

Check for Leaks

It is especially important to check for leaks and loose connections the first time you light the grill for the season. Coan said, "Using a brush, apply a soapy solution made of one part detergent and one part water to the tank connection. If the solution bubbles, you have a leak that needs repair."

Charcoal Grill Safety

When lighting a charcoal grill remember that additional lighter fluid should never be squirted onto the coals after they have been lit. Use fireplace matches or a grill lighter to stay at arms length from flames.

Recent Grill Fires Prove the Dangers

In 2007, there were 45 grill fires reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) by local fire departments in Massachusetts. However, this seemingly small number of fires resulted in property losses of \$980,708. In addition, one civilian was killed, three civilians and three firefighters were injured while cooking or lighting grills.

LP-Gas Tanks Not Permitted in Homes or on Balconies Above the 1st Floor

LP-gas (liquid propane) cylinders are not permitted inside homes or on balconies above the first floor of any building where people live (527 Code of Massachusetts Regulations Section 6:07). Place your grill at least 10 feet from your home. Gas grills should not be used above ground level or beneath decks and porches. Gas and charcoal grill produce carbon monoxide and should never be used indoors.

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